



150 Trumbull Street, 2nd Floor
Hartford, CT 06103
p) 860.522.4345 f) 860.522.1027
www.cttriallawyers.org

Date: 2-23-16
SUPPORT RB 197

TO: MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
FROM: THE CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)

RE: SUPPORT OF RB197 AAC VETERANS, DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES
AND THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The CTLA supports this sensible proposal to bring much needed changes to the Commission of Human Rights and Opportunities(CHRO) and protect veterans from discriminatory practices.

Of particular interest to CTLA are the expanded remedies provided by section 13 of the bill, which will encourage the use of the administrative process. This will allow grieved individuals more redress in the administrative forum, and the ability to recover for more costly and time consuming proceedings without going to the superior court.

The inclusion of veteran status as a protected class under the CHRO statutes is valuable to veterans, who like other classes already protected, experience discrimination in the job market. Having this status specifically in this statute in Connecticut, coupled with the expansions in section 13 of the bill, will be a great start to ensuring veterans aren't discriminated against in the state.

The CTLA also offers to work with the sponsors of the bill to strengthen those protections even more. Coupling these provisions with the protections offered under the Federal Uniform Services Employment and Re-Employment Rights Act could add the seamless and strong protections our state's veterans deserve.

In conclusion, the CTLA strongly urges members of the committee to vote RB197 out of committee.